(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the PMGSY Programme aims to provide connectivity to all Unconnected Habitation with a population of 500 and above (250 and above in respect of Hill States including North East) by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007).

BPL population census

1527. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State governments are advised to initiate a Below Poverty Line population census, 2002;

(b) if so, parameters used for classification into "poor" and "non poor" in detail;

(c) whether methodology will be developed for identification of Below Poverty line population based on indigenous parameters of States after discussions with them;

(d) whether States are advised that number of BPL persons identified through the BPL census, 2002 may not exceed the number of persons living Below Poverty Line estimated by Planning Commission for 1999-2000; and

(e) if so, reasons in detail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thirteen scorable socio-economic parameters namely, Size of operational holding of land. Type of house, Average availability of normal wear clothing, Food security, Sanitation facilities, Ownership of consumer durables, Literacy status, Status of household labour force, Means of Livelihood, Status of children, Type of indebtedness, Reasons for migration from household and Preference of assistance (each having scores 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 depending on the status of the household) are to be used for ranking the rural households.

(c) The expert Group constituted for advising the Ministry on the methodology for BPL Census 2002 had taken into consideration the views of the State Governments in the regard. The Expert Group also had

representatives of five States as members. There is no proposal to modify the methodology at this stage.

(d) The States have been advised that the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons identified through the BPL Census 2002 may not exceed the number of BPL persons estimated by the Planning Commission for 1999-2000 for the rural sector or the number of persons as per the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. An additional 10% has been allowed to account for transient poor.

(e) The allocation of funds for poverty alleviation programmes are not based on the results of BPL Census, but based on formula adopted by the National Development Council, which takes into account the estimates of poverty obtained by the Planning Commission.

Post 2004 quota scenario

1528. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to gear up for 2004 quota free scenario;

(b) the number of application received in the Textiles Ministry as on 28 February, 2003 for upgradation under Technology Upgradation Fund scheme; State-wise; and

(c) the total amount involved in implementing the requests received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries for an increasing share of global market. Some of the major initiatives undertaken for implementation of the Policy are:—

(i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.